

**STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL (SILC)**  
**SEPTEMBER 18 – 19, 2007**  
**GOVERNOR'S INN – PIERRE**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Josia Fuerst, Betsy Valnes, Mark Arneson, Betty Coon, Jamie Mack, Gary Wald, Linda Biffert, Larry Puthoff, Jason Lorang, Vona Johnson, Marilyn Kinsman, Grady Kickul and Gaye Mattke. MEMBERS ABSENT: Ryan Green and Philomine Moran. OTHERS PRESENT: Tim Neyhart, Colette Wagoner, Sandy Neyhart, Denise White, Matt Cain, Tom Kober and Ann Van Loan. INTERPRETERS: Crista Gunderson and Julie Paluch.

OPENING ACTIONS: WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS – Vice Chairperson Linda Biffert welcomed all in attendance and asked each to introduce him/herself. MEETING PROTOCOL – Grady and Linda addressed meeting protocol. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Linda asked if there were any changes needed to the agenda. SILC staff indicated that Marilyn is not able to be at the meeting tomorrow, so it was agreed to move her report to following the DRS IL Program Specialist Report. Vona indicated that she would only be at the meeting for an hour or so in the morning, so she asked if her report could also be included in today's agenda. Vona's report will follow Marilyn's. **MOTION MADE (M) TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED, SECONDED (S) AND CARRIED (C).** APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Linda asked if there were any changes to the draft minutes. **MOTION TO APPROVE THE MAY/JUNE SILC MINUTES – MSC.** Linda asked if there were any changes needed to the draft Executive Committee minutes. **MOTION TO APPROVE THE AUGUST SILC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES – MSC.**

TIME FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS: Linda asked if anyone wished to make comments at this time. Hearing none, she moved to the next agenda item.

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DRS DIRECTOR'S REPORT: DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS – Grady began his report by welcoming new members – Jason Lorang and Larry Puthoff. He also welcomed back Josia Fuerst and Jamie Mack. He congratulated Linda Biffert and Ryan Green on being re-appointed to the SILC. Shelly asked for a moment, and received it, to explain the voting SILC voting process so new members would understand why some members are not voting on motions. NDEAM – Grady handed out a document listing the various events being planned for the month of October (see attached). He spoke of the history of this initiative, and how various community members work together to plan and host these events. There will be an Executive Proclamation declaring October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month in South Dakota. Grady encouraged SILC members to participate in these events. If they decide to do so, Grady asked that members inform SILC staff of their plans. FALL CONFERENCE – Grady encouraged SILC members to participate in the Fall Conference. He asked that interested members contact SILC staff if they are interested in attending. PLANS COMMUNICATION – Grady shared that the Board of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR) recently met with the People Leading Accessible Networks of Support (PLANS) group and had some very positive conversation about services and supports. He received an email from Brooke Lusk, PLANS Coordinator, complimenting the CILS for the services and supports they have been providing to PLANS participants. DRS ON-SITE REVIEW – Grady reported that the final report for the SD on-site review was issued and placed on the RSA website on Monday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. The plan is to begin working through the report, and between SILC meetings staff will provide members with additional related information. Grady asked that this report be on the agenda for the next SILC meeting so the dialogue can continue. He explained that the monitoring process was a yearlong process involving a host of stakeholders. He was pleased to report that both DRS and SBVI came through the process very well. The monitoring report will be a good tool in setting forth a plan for what we – IL network members – need to do in the next three years to respond to the new guidance received from RSA. ADLS CONSUMERS AND EMPLOYMENT – The Assistive Daily

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Living Services (ADLS) program is a Medicaid waiver program under the Division of Rehabilitation Services. As of 6/1/07 this waiver was renewed for an additional five years. The available services are personal assistance services, case management services, consumer preparation services, incontinence supplies and Lifeline. The program is designed to meet the needs of people who are unable to use all four limbs due to various reasons. During the waiver renewal process, it was apparent that there was a need to implement a Quality Management Strategy and related committee. The SILC was asked, and agreed, to provide some oversight to the Quality Management effort, and Jamie Mack volunteered to represent the SILC on the committee. Grady agreed to keep the SILC updated on waiver activities, including the number being served. The Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services, the federal partner to the waiver, is pleased with the SILC's involvement with the waiver. The ADLS program currently serves 114 people, and there is a waiting list of approximately 12 people. DRS has asked for a significant increase in their future budget to eliminate the current waiting list. Grady then spoke about implementation of the Medical Assistance for Workers with Disabilities (MAWD) program, and its impact on the waiver. With MAWD in place, there is no longer an earnings limit of \$400 per month for waiver services. As a result, a waiver recipient can earn as much as they desire to and not have a co-payment as a result of their earnings level. In reviewing people presently on the ADLS program, some have an employment history. With the removal of this dis-incentive, DRS is surveying the recipients on whether or not they are working and if not, would they be interested in employment; and related questions. Grady anticipates that some wishing to return to employment may need IL services, and it will result in these individuals being referred to CILs. A question was asked about what types of funds are being sought to address the current waiting list. Grady explained that DRS included a budget request for SFY09. It will need to make it into the final Department of Human Services budget, the Governor's Budget and through the legislative process before it would become available. MAWD TRAINING – Grady explained that the Medicaid State Plan was amended as of 1/1/07 to provide a Medicaid Buy-In, which in

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SD is called the MAWD program. Since January 1<sup>st</sup>, 28 individuals have been approved, 29 people have been denied and 23 applications are currently pending. Hoby Abernathy, Freedom to Work Project staff, and Bernie Grimme are planning on going to all the DRS offices to provide training on this program. Once this training has been completed, they will move on to providing the training to other entities i.e., CILs, SILC. Thus far, the majority of referrals to the program have come through the Department of Social Services (DSS). It's expected with the completion of the training, referrals will come from other avenues. Grady explained that to be eligible a person must meet the Social Security definition of disability minus the work requirement; must also have unearned income of less than \$643 a month and must have resources below \$8,000. This resource limit is expansive beyond other Medicaid programs, which have a \$2,000 resource limit. Even though 28 people may seem like a small number of people on MAWD, these are 28 people who previously did not have health insurance coverage. STATE PLAN INPUT LETTER – Grady referenced a letter sent to the SPIL signatories from the SD Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities, providing input into the SPIL development. He also spoke to the response he sent to the Coalition, after consulting the with other two SPIL signatories. He asked that SILC members review both letters, and that dialogue on these letters be on the agenda of their next meeting. The major items raised by the Coalition are the need for increased emphasis on the delivery of the four core services; adjustments/changes to the current fee for service system; the possibility of having an external evaluation of independent living services in SD; outreach and services for transition age youth; support of socialization and recreational opportunities for people with significant disabilities; and the need to increase the visibility of IL services on the DHS website. Ann indicated that in the RSA review of WRDI, she did not hear anything about a need to give greater attention to the delivery of the four core services. Grady indicated that the RSA Monitoring Report speaks directly to this issue. STATE PLAN FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (SPIL) SUBMISSION – Grady reported that yesterday notification was received from RSA that the FY08 – 2010 SPIL has been approved. It is in the process of being mailed out, and

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once it is received, copies will be sent to all SILC members. Grady thanked everyone for their input into the SPIL development. Linda thanked him for this report.

DSBVI DIRECTOR'S REPORT: RSA MONITORING REVIEW – Gaye provided her sense of the RSA review process and subsequent report. She shared that what was discussed during the review was not necessarily reflected in what came out in the report, however the differences did not warrant changes to the draft report. One recommendation made was for the Older Blind program to work more closely with the CILs. SBVI is entering into dialogue with the CILs about ways in which this increased collaboration might take place. Gaye spoke to the roles of the Older Blind program, the CILs and Adult Services and Aging in serving older persons with blindness and significant visual impairments. She addressed the need to explore the most efficient use of all available resources to meet these needs. Concerns regarding the current reimbursement system for services through the CILs may result in exorbitant costs for limited services. Gaye then reviewed the portion of the monitoring report addressing the Older Blind program (see attached). BOARD OF SERVICE TO THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED (SBVI) UPDATE – Gaye reported that they would be meeting at the Holiday Inn Express in Ft. Pierre on September 28<sup>th</sup>. Chuck Fullenkamp has been appointed to fill the position previously held by Patrick Czerny. DeAnn Curan has been appointed from the parent information and training center. Mike Klemisch and Ed Pinkman have been re-appointed. Gaye invited SILC members to participate in this upcoming meeting. IL PROGRAM UPDATE – Gaye turned over her time to Sandy Neyhart, the SBVI IL Program Specialist. Sandy focused her comments on the Older Blind Peer Support Program. She reported that there are currently 19 peer support groups supported by SBVI. Most of the groups meet on a monthly basis and are facilitated by volunteers. The groups decide on what their focus will be and what they will do. Most of the groups are in the eastern part of the state. There is interest in starting a group in the southern Black Hills, and SBVI is exploring its potential. SBVI supports

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these groups in the form of reimbursement for meeting room costs, transportation costs, and volunteer facilitator leader expenses i.e., postage, paper, copies, and phone cards. They also provide support by purchasing needed equipment such as amplification devices, tape recorders and large print calendars. SBVI provides information to the groups for discussion at their meetings. Finally, SBVI supports these groups through the provision of training both on the statewide and local levels. Linda thanked Gaye and Sandy for their reports.

Following a break, Linda invited Sandy to share information about a current vacancy within SBVI for a rehabilitation teacher out of the Sioux Falls office.

DRS IL PROGRAM SPECIALIST REPORT: Denise started her report by reviewing two financial reports – Final FY07 Budget Report and FY08 Budget Report (see attached). Hearing no questions, she then invited Gary Wald to provide an update on the status of 704 Reporting Software implementation throughout the CIL network. Gary reported that OIL has completed the needed hardware and operating systems upgrades. OIL staff will receive training on the software by the end of this month. Gary invited Ann to provide a similar update on WRDI's progress. She shared that the software has been installed and staff has been trained in its use. NAAP – Gary reported that he has not heard from Marla about the status of their implementation efforts. There was some conversation about the method being used to provide the training and its effectiveness. It was agreed that there might be a need for additional training at a later time. Some concerns were raised about the effectiveness of training for staff with visual impairments by people without visual impairments, as well as training provided via Internet or phone. It was affirmed that the commitment is for all staff to receive appropriate training that will enable them to effectively utilize the software. PFCIL – Matt reported that they are at a similar point as OIL. Gary reported that the CILs are working with Denise and Shelly to identify examples of various services so there will be greater consistency in reporting by all CILs, and the 704 report data will be

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more useful in telling the IL story. Grady asked that CILs continue to report to the SILC on the outcome of their implementation efforts.

DSS NEWS AND ISSUES: Marilyn provided an update on the department's efforts to provide greater services in South Dakota for people with traumatic brain injury. DSS is working with Avera Health to put these services into place. They are working with a facility in Irene and an agency in Yankton to provide a "step down" program in South Dakota. Marilyn then spoke to two pieces of legislation passed during the last legislative session – S193 and HR1005 (see attached) – explaining their implications for South Dakotans. The next item she addressed was the Long Term Care Partnership program. Marilyn invited people to go to the state's home page for more information. This alliance between state government and insurance companies is designed to provide a feasible approach to people purchasing long term care insurance. There are currently training sessions going on in various communities throughout the state. Linda thanked Marilyn for her report.

SDHDA NEWS AND ISSUES: Vona addressed two major items – the current process for updating the consolidated plan and the approaching annual housing conference. The draft consolidated plan will be released for public comment on the 24<sup>th</sup>, and input can be provided through public meetings or via written comments. The annual conference is scheduled for November 13 – 14, and several noteworthy speakers will present. Vona invited members to go to the SDHDA website for information on the conference. Finally, Vona announced that there is a property financed in Yankton – town homes – that have two units still for sale. These units are the accessible unit and the one above this unit. They are available for \$55,000 and she encouraged people to let others know of their availability. Linda thanked Vona for her report.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT: Shelly passed around two listings for SILC members review and edits – one containing their mailing addresses and the other containing their phone numbers and

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email addresses. YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM “THANK YOU” – Shelly read and then passed around a thank you received by the SILC for their support of the Youth Leadership Forum. APRIL CONFERENCE – Shelly indicated that information had been sent out on the conference, and even though the Executive Committee approved support for Betsy to participate in this conference, an invitation was extended to SILC members to participate in the conference. Any interested members were encouraged to contact staff yet this week if they were interested in attending the conference.

NCIL ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT: Mark represented the SILC at the conference and annual meeting. He stated that he was in Washington D.C. from July 9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>, and the theme of the conference was “Celebrating Accomplishments and Forging New Leaders.” The first three days were primarily focused on planning for meetings with congressional delegation members. He attended a policy briefing conference, and this coupled with the SILC talking points, was good preparation for his upcoming meetings with SD Congressional members. Some of the topics focused on were Reauthorization of the Rehabilitation Act, Mental Health Parity, Restoration of the ADA, Housing, Health Care, Personal Attendant Services, Transportation, Employment, Education, Assistive Technology and independent living program funding. Representative Herseth Sandlin and Senator Thune were both in South Dakota for the funeral of a SD soldier killed in Afghanistan, so he met with a staff member – Josh Albert of Herseth Sandlin’s staff and Meredith Brown of Thune’s staff. He later had the opportunity to meet with Senator Thune directly. Senator Johnson was not in his office due to his health situation, so Mark met with two of his staff – Jacqueline Lampert and Megan DesCamps. Mark said that all listened to the issues and concerns he brought forward to them. He learned that Representative Herseth Sandlin was a co-sponsor with Representative Patrick Kennedy of the Mental Health Parity Act on the House side. He had an opportunity to meet Rep. Kennedy and told him of a connection between John F. Kennedy and Mark’s uncle. All delegation members’ staff assured Mark that they would pass along his

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concerns and information to their respective member. In his meeting with Senator Thune, Mark spoke to all the reasons Mental Health Parity is good for South Dakota. He had heard that Senator Thune was not in support of this bill. Mark handed out the conference program, drawing attention to Betsy Valnes' picture on the cover. He spoke to some of the breakout session topics – veterans with disabilities, IL philosophy, best practices, diversity, and aging. He also spoke to the luncheon involving SEUI (Service Employee Union Services), with whom NCIL has entered into a partnership to move some issues forward. Mark said that he felt one of the biggest benefits of attending this conference was the ability to network with others. As a result of some of that networking, Mark has been made a member of the NCIL Mental Health Civil Rights Task Force. They are working to address issues such as stigmatizing portrayals of people with mental illness, disaster relief and mental health parity. Mark thanked the SILC for supporting his participation at the conference, and the SILC thanked Mark for representing them and SD so well.

COMMUNITY VISION PAPER: Betsy independently attended the NCIL Conference as part of a team that reported on their efforts to research and develop a "Community Vision Paper". Their efforts looked at where the disability movement is headed, what it will take to get there and what issues they feel need to be addressed. The report had been sent out to SILC members at an earlier time. Betsy said they will be presenting this report at the APRIL Conference in October, and it is a living document. She said they anticipate they will be putting out questions to the disability community that may not always be comfortable, but the team feels they need to be part of the ongoing conversation. She invited SILC members to provide input at any time. Grady thanked Betsy and the others for their involvement in this effort, and he commented that he was grateful for the way in which Betsy represents the SILC and SD on various fronts.

FY2007 RSA MONITORING REPORT ON IL: Grady introduced this topic by referencing the difficulty the Executive Committee had in

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drafting the agenda due to the fact that at that time the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) had not been approved and the 2007 RSA Monitoring Report had not been finalized. He reported that since then, the report has been finalized. Yesterday word was received that the SPIL had been approved (we are awaiting receipt of it in the mail). Grady shared that through this presentation, he hoped to set a foundation and framework for what needs to be done by the South Dakota IL Network members – SILC, DRS, DSBVI, CILs – to plan for the future of IL services in South Dakota in a way that is responsive to the monitoring report and the SPIL, as well as to the portion of the Rehabilitation Act, which addresses the statutory responsibilities and duties of the SILC and DSU. Two key overall points that Grady focused his remarks on were:

- 1) How South Dakota utilizes Part B funds in support of SILC activities, especially activities related to the carrying out of the SILC's statutory duties; and
- 2) Redefining of the SILC's roles and responsibilities as set out in the Rehabilitation Act.

Grady spoke to South Dakota's need to direct greater attention and resources to these activities. He asked that a considerable amount of time on the next meeting agenda be set aside for the continuation of this conversation. Grady spoke to the SILC needing to determine where we're at, where we need to go and how long it will take to get there – all in relation to the contents of the RSA monitoring report, the SPIL and the Rehabilitation Act. He commented on the fact that we are operating under a new RSA, and during the past several months we've received direction from RSA that has never been heard prior to this time. He spoke to the transformation of RSA over the past few years, and the impact it has had on their operations, as well as their relationship to states. In the past when RSA has been in the state, little if any focus has been put towards Part B IL or the Older Blind IL programs. He further commented that some items that were discussed in detail during the review were not contained within the final monitoring report. Grady

stressed that adequate Part B IL funds that flow through the DSU – Division of Rehabilitation Services – must be directed in support of the SILC carrying out its statutory duties. The DSU and SBVI have the primary responsibility for the awarding of Part B and Older Blind IL funds, not the SILC. Grady continued to say that the report did not find the state out of compliance, nor did it require any kind of plan of correction. He continued by stating that the face-to-face contact with RSA and the report clearly sent a message. This review was truly a time for unofficially setting a baseline under the new RSA, and Grady feels we've been put on notice by RSA to address the four issues noted on page 40 of the monitoring report –

- 1) Increasing demand of IL services with limited resources;
- 2) Improving alignment of the four core IL services with those services provided under the HMD and Assistive Technology Devices programs;
- 3) Developing a statewide uniform data reporting systems for the CILs; and
- 4) Strengthening the SILC with respect to fulfilling its mandated roles and responsibilities.

Grady continued by stating that the SILC needs to have appropriate resources to carry out its duties and responsibilities as called for in the Rehabilitation Act. He is not calling for cutting current CIL budgets funded through Part B funds. He believes there are ways to redirect some existing funds, and as additional funds become available having them redirected, so the SILC's resource needs can be met. Grady took responsibility, as the DSU Director, for not providing needed resources to the SILC to carry out their duties. He then addressed the portion of the Rehabilitation Act – Section 713 – that speaks to the authorized use of Part B IL funds. (This portion of the Act will be sent out to SILC members in preparation for their next meeting.) Grady reported that 97% of Part B funds currently is directed to the operation of CILs and provision of IL services – two of the authorized uses of these funds; 1.8% goes to training of CIL staff and people with disabilities, and 1.2%

goes to support SILC member travel. Grady continued to say that it is time for us to “put our money where our mouth is” in terms of supporting the SILC in carrying out its statutory duties and responsibilities. In addition to Section 713 of the Act, Grady encouraged SILC members to pay extra attention to chapters 6 and 7 of the monitoring report (beginning on page 40), as another means of preparing for their next meeting. Grady also reference portions of the SPIL, which will be sent out once the approved copy is received from RSA. He suggested that prior to the next meeting, DSU and SILC staff will work to produce materials, which will overlay the three documents and help direct future conversations. Grady concluded his comments by stating that there is much good that is happening in South Dakota in terms of meeting the IL needs of people with significant disabilities, and he doesn’t want the SILC to lose sight of this reality. He believes we have three years to figure out how we move forward in the direction that has been given by RSA, and he believes we can do it and do it well. Grady thanked the SILC and other attendees for their patience during this presentation, especially noting for new members that it was a lot of information that may be a bit overwhelming. He reaffirmed that this is only the beginning of the conversation, which he expects will continue for quite some time.

Linda called for a motion to adjourn the meeting for the day. **MOTION TO ADJOURN FOR TODAY – MSC.** The meeting adjourned at approximately 5 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 8:30 a.m.

**CONTINUATION OF CONVERSATION ON FY2007 RSA MONITORING REPORT ON IL:** Linda asked Grady to provide a recap of yesterday’s presentation. Grady apologized for the length and vastness of what he shared. He expressed his desire to set a tone for the continuation of this conversation. He spoke to the activities of the past several months – RSA monitoring review and visit, SPIL development and related input into the SPIL. He now feels it is time to move forward. He committed to the DSU working with SILC staff to

prepare and send out related materials prior to the next meeting so SILC members have time to review them prior to the meeting. He is going to review his hand written notes from yesterday, and work with others, to put them into a format that will be helpful to SILC members. They too will be sent out prior to the next meeting. He again highlighted that during the past several years, the SILC has unknowingly spent too much focus on funding issues. Statutorily DRS and DSBVI are responsible for awarding the Part B and Older Blind IL funds and not the SILC. Grady also expressed that as this conversation continues, the SILC may wish to re-examine their standing agenda items to keep what is critical and drop others that are not. He spoke to this being the beginning of a three-year period during which the SILC may work to redefine itself, and as they do so, they can turn to RSA and other available resources to seek needed technical assistance. We are going in the right direction. Gary expressed appreciation for the comments from the past day and the SPIL input provided by the Coalition. He expressed frustration with the continuing conversation about too much focus on HMAD and TAD and how it may or may not be impacting the delivery of the four core services. He also expressed some disappointment in conversation that took place during the RSA monitoring review that was not reflected in the final report i.e., delivery of HMAD and TAD, depending on how they are delivered, can and does include the delivery of some of the four core services. He expressed that HMAD and TAD are two programs seen as innovative and desired by other states. He expressed concern that we may be losing sight of what the consumers want... He expressed concern over how the four concerns within the report can be addressed without cutting CIL budgets. Betsy asked for clarification on what needs to be shifted within the system, and Grady indicated that he believes that RSA has given clear direction that resources need to be shifted to support the SILC in carrying out its statutory duties. He continued to say that some of what the SILC needs to do might not necessarily carry a high price tag i.e., implementation of new software and consistent statewide data is already happening and will address some of the identified issues. In the past the SILC has been very effective in promoting equal access to

voting, and it was done with little if any funds. Grady restated that he does not see the need for pulling funds from CILs to provide needed resources to the SILC. Grady then spoke to the SILC exploring more effective ways of gathering consumer input and DRS' need to develop a better process for annual CIL reviews. Gaye spoke to the need for consistency and accountability in the provision of services, referencing pages 41-44 of the monitoring report. Grady stated that the SD IL network needs to look differently at the big picture and uplift all the good that is happening, as well as move towards improvements that will only strengthen the IL system in SD. In response to various comments on the difference between what was discussed during the monitoring review and what's contained in the monitoring report, all agreed that a lot of the detail information shared during the on-site visit was not contained in the final report. All concur that the IL data from SD presently doesn't draw a picture that truly tells the full story, and we're on the right path to correct this reality. This will not only help tell the story at the federal level. It will also provide the SILC with information that will help them to look at the statewide picture and make decisions on that basis. Grady stressed that all the IL network members – DSU, SBVI, SILC and CILs – need to work together to be effective. Grady shared a memo, which provides stakeholders with an opportunity to provide RSA with feedback on their new monitoring review process, and he invited attendees to complete the survey, if they felt it important to do so. A question was asked if the Governor could attend one of the SILC's meetings so he could hear first hand about the issues and needs of people with significant disabilities seeking to live independently. It was stated that DRS and DSBVI have a role in advocating for additional funding for IL services, and they do so. Vona added that she feels the CILs are doing more than is being reported, and as the SILC moves forward, she hopes that we don't dump out everything and start over from scratch. Grady again stated that much good is happening, and we seek to build on it and do better, not start over. Ann expressed that CILs need to be educating legislators to the needs of people with disabilities seeking to live independently, and people with disabilities need to be advocating as well. Grady spoke to the monitoring report addressing

that it is the CILs responsibility to raise funds for their operations, not the SILC; and legislative efforts for this purpose need to be CIL driven. Betsy spoke to the need to contact the Governor, not only to ask for funding, but also to build awareness of the needs of people with disabilities. She and Linda also spoke to the need for people with disabilities to “get off their duffs” and advocate for what is needed, and the CILs and other organizations can help in training people with disabilities in effective ways to carry out these activities.

At this time, Linda indicated that this conversation had been going on for about an hour, and since it will continue at the next meeting, she thanked everyone for their participation and called for a short break.

ASSOCIATION OF CIL REPORT: Linda called on Ann to provide this report. Ann reported that the Association members met yesterday to talk about all that is happening, but there was nothing more to report at this time.

CIL REPORTS: CSD – Tom Kober is now the CSD Division Director for South Dakota, thus he oversees services they provide throughout the state. In terms of IL cases, CSD has 69 active cases – the largest amount in three months. They have opened 24 new cases and closed 33 cases carried over from last year. They have earned 61% of their funding provided through DRS. Their staff is working hard, and they are providing various services to those served – computer skills training, teaching people to swim and various workshops. They have also been participating in events such as the Road to Freedom Tour and the Sioux Falls ADA Celebration. They are working in the health care arena with Health House, the Set Free Coalition and the Health Literacy Coalition on issues such as peer support for people who are deaf and hard of hearing and are diabetic, advising how to support people who are deaf and hard of hearing in quitting the use of tobacco, and making various health care related materials accessible to the deaf community i.e., videos. OIL – Gary reported that OIL is collaborating with the MS Society of SD to sponsor a “Living Well” program on November 4<sup>th</sup>. OIL

will have an exhibit at the Fall Conference, and they will include SILC materials at their table. OIL received five computers from North Central Chapter of PVA for distribution to consumers. They have been distributed and some training has been provided to the recipients. Gary reported that OIL Board member, Jayne Hettinger, passed away, and she will be missed. She was not only an advocate for those served by OIL, but for those served by the adjustment training center. OIL's Harley Davidson raffle was a success. A 79-year young gentleman from New Effington SD won the Harley, and he is a rider. OIL has a grant from the Federal Home Loan Bank to provide 25 home modifications at \$10,000 each. At the current time OIL has completed 10 projects, and in checking with funding source, there is no geographic boundaries on the use of the funds. Gary will be talking with other CIL directors about potential projects they could fund to meet consumer needs. PFCIL – Matt reported that they are in their new building at 49<sup>th</sup> and Carnegie. It is a great location for the center, as well as a great investment for their future. They already have noticed more participants coming into their new location, and he invited SILC members and other attendees to stop in any time, as well as to attend their Open House scheduled for November 9<sup>th</sup>. They had their first golf tourney in Yankton, and Matt said they were disappointed with the number of people involved in it. With the limited participation, they raised \$7,000 for which they are grateful. The week of October 9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> PFCIL is partnering with HyVee stores on Operation Smile. During that week there will be donation canisters at the checkouts of their stores and any donation received will be matched by HyVee and given to PFCIL. Matt reported that Charlie Anderson recently turned 66, and he was interested in cutting back on his employment. Thus he is going to be working three days a week as a development director for PFCIL, and Matt will take over the major human resource duties for which Charlie had previously had responsibility. PFCIL applied to APRIL for the CIL to CIL Mentoring program, and they were awarded \$3,000 to support bringing in a CIL director from an "exemplary CIL" in another part of the country to spend time exploring what PFCIL is doing and how it might build on its current strengths. Ron Garcia from Santa Fe, New Mexico spent three days at



the center. Matt described him as smart, business minded, and committed to the IL needs of people with disabilities. Ron met with all of their staff. He recommended that PFCIL diversify their funding base by exploring more fees for service and contract opportunities. He also said he thought their summer transition program could become a major moneymaker for the center. Matt encouraged other CILs to apply for this opportunity based upon the positive experience PFCIL had with the program. Matt reported that a board member from Mitchell – Kori Kappel – passed away, and she is being missed, as she was a strong, long-time advocate and community member. Jeff Munce, who is with the City of Sioux Falls, has joined the PFCIL board. As of a recent count, Matt reported they have served 1077 participants thus far this year, significant growth over previous years. He added that when such growth occurs, it is important to examine and be sure that appropriate services are being provided to those served. WRDI – Ann reported that WRDI entered into a contract to do 504 Housing Reviews for Rapid City Housing Development, and they were paid well to complete this work. They also received a Community Block grant to provide modifications to rental housing in Rapid City, and they received funds from Fannie Mae and the Larsen Foundation to complete home modifications and provide assistive devices. WRDI held it's second annual Scotty Backens Golf Tournament, and they raised \$6,995 from this event. Ann reported that they have hired two new staff – finance manager/administrative assistant (fm/aa) and an IL specialist for the northern Hills. They presently have 4.5 IL specialists, as Shelly Shock, advocacy coordinator, is now also doing some IL specialists duties. Barb Wamsbly, the fm/aa and Ann are the only administrative staff. Ann spoke to being proud of their staff and the work they do. She reported that staff has received training on the new IL data software program, they are researching funding sources to provide transition programming to students within the Rapid City school district and they have moved into Suites D and E at the same address, which gives them a larger space. Ann reported that WRDI recently completed a successful financial audit. The one “ding” they received, which they will always receive due their staff size, is related to segregation of financial duties.

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She reported that WRDI recently sent out 349 surveys to consumers in 17 counties – active and closed cases – and the data gathered will assist them in planning for the future. Ann spoke to earlier conversation about the SILC possibly receiving training, and she suggested that Bob Michaels of ILRU has come to WRDI at no cost in the past, and he is coming again on October 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> to provide two more days of training to their staff. She suggested he might be a trainer the SILC could work with and it would result in very little cost to them. The final item Ann reported on was their recently completed review by RSA. She handed out copies of the document they are sending to RSA as a response to the “draft” report (see attached). Ann highlighted the various findings and steps that WRDI is taking to address these findings. She also volunteered to share information received from RSA with the other CILs. One of the findings was related to the minor number of services provided under information and referral. Ann explained problems with the past software related to this service. Gary mentioned that the data on the 704 reports for FY07 will still be comparing apples to oranges, since they are still using the old system. The FY08 data will be the first to use the new system, and all hope it will present a more complete picture of services and outcomes within the IL system. Betty Coon, SILC member and WRDI Board member, said that their board of directors found the RSA review process to be an enlightening experience. They appreciated the team that came out to complete the review. Grady stated how he was sure it was a major undertaking to prepare for the review and thanked them for all their efforts. Grady asked Ann to share the final RSA report with the SILC, once it becomes available. From a quick glance at the document Ann provided, Grady said that he noted several suggestions concerning the consumer service record (CSR), and the DSU needs to work with CILs to ensure that statewide the CSRs are consistent. Linda thanked each director for their report, and she commented on the many positive activities that are happening across the state. A question came up about NAAP’s involvement with the implementation of the new software. NAAP agreed to go with the software, but no one is aware of any steps being taken to begin implementation of it at that CIL. Ann reminded the SILC that

NAAP is no longer a member of the Association of CILs. Grady indicated that DSU staff will be dealing with this issue, and if they need to do so, they will work with RSA to work out any issues. The issue was then brought up about other CILs serving Native American people with disabilities living on the reservations. Gary spoke to what Elizabeth Akinola, RSA, said about denying anyone services and any geographic boundaries within the system. Grady said that he thought the DSU and SILC could be of assistance in addressing these issues. He strongly believes in consumer choice and timeliness of services. Grady committed to the DSU taking a lead on dealing with these issues, and he will provide some type of update during his director's report at the next meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS: UNITED WE RIDE UPDATE – Linda explained that the SILC Executive Committee asked Shelly, as Coalition Executive Director, to provide an update on the “United We Ride” grant efforts in SD. There has not been a Department of Transportation representative on the SILC for several months, and this is an issue of importance to all members of the SD IL network. On behalf of the Coalition, Shelly thanked the SILC for this opportunity. She reviewed the history of coordination efforts in South Dakota, provided an overview of the United We Ride grant efforts and the specific actions taken in completing this most recent study of how transit services are meeting the needs of people with disabilities, older individuals, and others who are on limited income. Shelly provided highlights of surveys with State Level stakeholders, Community Members and Transit Providers. She also reviewed key factors related to the review of transit data i.e., passenger characteristics and trip purposes. She shared some of the major comments received in face-to-face conversations with individuals from Mitchell, Brookings, Yankton, Watertown, Aberdeen, Rapid City and the northern Black Hills. Shelly spoke about her involvement with the Sioux Falls task force, which worked on recommendations to the Public Transit Advisory Board on ways to strengthen the Sioux Falls transit services and meet the greatest amount of need in the most efficient

way. Shelly concluded her report by addressing the consensus items and the action steps included in the final report.

The consensus items were:

- 1) Transit services are highly valued and have evolved in a positive direction over the past several years.
- 2) It would be a major barrier for many individuals seeking to participate in community life if current services were not available.
- 3) There continue to be groups of people who still struggle with making the available services work for them i.e., getting to and from work; getting children to and from school and/or childcare.
- 4) Coordination does occur when a specific need arises within a community, and it is brought to the attention of the community. Coordination, as a part of planning, does not seem as well grounded in communities. In fact, attention dedicated to planning beyond meeting immediate needs seems to be uncommon in most communities, yet this activity is one that the majority of respondents believe would be beneficial for the entire community.
- 5) Community agencies with vehicles continue to provide the majority of needed transit support services to those they serve, with limited coordination with the public transit agency. A barrier to increased coordination between these entities is the reality that each system gathers data in a different matter, and at times it is very difficult to pull transportation specific costs out of reported data.

The action steps were:

- 1) DOT will coordinate regular meetings at the state level involving other state entities, public and private that serve the targeted populations. These meetings will be focused on:
  - ❑ Provision of updates on currently available transit services;
  - ❑ Identification of existing funding sources and ways to leverage resources.

- Identification of new potential funding sources and their impact on the provision of transit services; and
  - Identification of unmet needs.
- 2) DOT will contact state level veteran related agencies, private and public, and invite them to participate in transit coordination efforts at the state and local levels.
- 3) Explore the possibility of bringing Easter Seals Project ACTION staff into South Dakota to work with a specific number of community teams to develop coordination plans for their specific communities.
- 4) Meet with Department of Social Services leadership to develop a means by which transit rides can be dropped directly into the Medicaid system, as a means of increasing efficiency and lessen time dedicated to processing payments for these rides.
- 5) Encourage community transit providers to develop and implement at least one public input meeting annually, as one means of providing riders and others with the opportunity to share input into services and to learn about the operation of services.
- 6) DOT will gather examples of “travel training” approaches and share them with community transit providers. Transit providers will be encouraged to develop and implement a travel-training program, if one doesn’t currently exist, that will ensure an individualized approach will be utilized for passengers needing such training.
- 7) DOT will support community transit providers in developing and implementing a needs assessment process, which will result in a broader picture of community transit needs and potential approaches to meeting those needs.

A question was asked if this report is available on line. Shelly indicated that she is inquiring with DOT about its availability, and if it can be shared, she will be sure the SILC and CILs receive a copy of it. Shelly expressed one final thought on this topic. She was surprised and saddened by the lack of involvement and knowledge that people using the services, or working with those who use the services, had about the

structure of their local community transit provider, as well as their lack of advocacy efforts with them. Gary spoke of his experience being similar, and also how tiring and difficult it can be at times to get these systems to move in different directions. Linda thanked Shelly for this report and the Coalition's work on this effort.

**FUTURE ACTIONS:** SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING – Linda asked when and where the SILC would like to hold their next meeting. After much conversation, consensus was to hold the next meeting in Sioux Falls at PFCIL on December 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. Staff will work on lodging arrangements for this meeting. **ADJOURNMENT** – Linda thanked everyone for their commitment to the SILC and their participation in the meeting. She called for a motion to adjourn. **MOTION TO ADJOURN – MSC.** The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:30 a.m.